
de maximis, inc.

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October 15, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Stephanie Vaughn ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager Emergency and Remedial Response Division U.S. EPA, Region 2 290 Broadway, 19th Floor New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 29 – September 2009 Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On September 9, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss the status of the fish/crab tissue sampling program and fish/crab tallies.
- On September 11, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss the status of the fish/crab tissue sampling program, including goals for the last week of sampling.
- On September 11, CPG and EPA met to discuss the EPA's plans for revisions to the Focused Feasibility Study (FFS).
- On September 17, CPG and EPA held a conference call to discuss EPA's Comment 1 on the draft Physical Water Column (PWCM) QAPP.

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- On September 24, CPG and EPA met to discuss the contents of the Low Resolution Coring (LRC) data summary report.
- On September 25, CPG and EPA met to review data depictions from the LRC Program.

Correspondence

- On September 2, CPG submitted a revised *Hyalella* exposure SOP to
- On September 3, CPG submitted a response to EPA Comment 1 on the PWCM QAPP to EPA.
- On September 15, CPG submitted the August Progress Report to EPA.
- On September 16, CPG submitted the revised draft Benthic QAPP and response to comments to EPA.
- On September 21, CPG submitted LRC data depictions and meeting presentation materials to EPA.
- On September 24, CPG received a memorandum from EPA on QA/QC of the EPA split samples for the LRC Program.
- On September 28, CPG submitted response to EPA comments on the draft PWCM QAPP to EPA.
- On September 29, CPG submitted responses to EPA comments on the Hyalella exposure SOP to EPA.
- On September 29, CPG received comments from EPA on the revised draft Benthic QAPP.

Work

- CPG continues drafting the LRC data summary report which includes a description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data results and presentation and summary of data validation results.
- CPG continues to collect fish/crab tissue samples in accordance with the approved Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP.
- CPG addressed comments from EPA regarding the draft Benthic QAPP.
- CPG addressed comments from EPA regarding the draft PWCM QAPP.
- CPG Modeling Team continued work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport using a version of SIT-SEDZL-J.
- CPG continues to review the Newark Bay (NB) physical water column monitoring data collected by Sommerfield and Chant.

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(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

There are no results from this reporting period.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG is reviewing and performing QA/QC on the multibeam/single beam bathymetry data collected late in 2008.
- CPG will revise the draft PWCM QAPP per EPA comments.
- CPG intends to proceed with the fall survey of the PWCM Program beginning October 10, 2009 assuming EPA approval of the revised draft PWCM QAPP.
- CPG will continue planning activities for the Chemical Water Column Monitoring QAPP.
- CPG will continue preparation of the LRC data summary report.
- CPG will continue to implement the Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP
- CPG will initiate implementation of the Benthic QAPP.
- CPG Modeling Team will continue work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport Model.
- CPG will hold a LPR/NB Modeling Program progress call with EPA and HydroQual.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

 EPA and CPG have worked in close cooperation to resolve the lack of Mummichog found during the Fish/Crab Tissue collection field program. Moreover, there has been frequent discussions on adjusting collection methods to achieve the objectives of the program

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.



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Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard F. Potter **Project Coordinator**

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